

The Farm

SILAS CHEEVER MASON, Editor

The Cabbage Snake!

So the cabbage snake story has broken out again. Well, to be sure! We were looking for it, but it is a little ahead of the season this year. Probably the unusual amount of rain had something to do with it.

Or may be the cabbage snake in the story has grown to such size as to become mixed up with the sea serpent.

Now sea serpent stories are usually due about the last of June or, if the season is cold and backward, early in July, when the sea shore hotels and cottages are well filled up and there are plenty of people along the shore to take an interest.

It would appear from this that the sea serpent (of the stories) is a sociable creature or at any rate fond of a large audience.

Now the cabbage snake (of the stories) is of a solitary and retiring disposition, lurking, one here, another there, in the lonesome truck patches at the back of the house, coming in at the back door instead of walking boldly up the front steps and ringing the bell.

The original of this cabbage snake story was a fake get up of a young news paper reporter to fill up space on a dull day for items. Somebody's family had been sick, as is not uncommon in days of hot weather and green apples and garden truck. Somebody said he thought it was cabbage they had eaten hurt them. The news hunter had his pencil good and sharp and it was a dull day for news so he thought to try a bit of fiction. To say that Old Man Blank's three children and the hired girl had cholera morbus would be only a small item and common place. To blame boiled cabbage for it would not add much, but here the genius of the fellow came to the surface; the power of invention. The Cabbage Snake was the product of his own invention. He did his work well. One part of real sickness, nine parts of invention and the Cabbage Snake Story was on its way. It flew from paper to paper and from mouth to mouth.

Honest, open faced Flat Dutch Cabbages that had gained a standing and reputation in the community by their services in behalf of humanity became, all at once, objects of suspicion and the well filled crout barrel that had been the pride and consolation of the thrifty housewife was no more trusted than the noisome pool where fever and ague are supposed to lurk. Cabbage patches in which the owner had toiled at early morn and dewy eve, and whose solid, yes bursting heads had been viewed with the pride that comes to honest labor rewarded, were now like the perishing apples of Sodom. The garden gate was even thrown open, the dog tied up, and word sent out that if there remained any who dared eat cabbage that they might come and carry these off at their pleasure, and of course at their own risk.

Uncle Sam's Department of Agriculture, alert when any fell disease or insect threatens the farmer's crop, took the matter up, speedily got to the bottom of the fake story, and published the correction.

But the fake cabbage snake proved to belong to the racer family. Like most other lies it could travel faster than the truth could overtake it, and so it arrived in Berea a week ago, as I said, a little ahead of the season. This time a very excellent lady found what she thought to be one of the dead cabbage snakes in the form of a slender white thread between the cabbage leaves and a careful examination with a microscope proved it to be only a stray grass or sedge root that had grown in there.

Of course the story of the cabbage snake dies hard, like Paddy's snake that he kept on beating because its tail continued to wiggle, declaring that he was "going to kill the craythur till it was dead and sinnible av it." Let us hope that this Berea discovery is the last wiggle of the Cabbage Snake's tail.

A very interesting continued story by one of our American writers will begin in the Citizen next week. "Dri and I" is a story of the war of 1812, and its scene is laid in northern New York, Michigan and France. It will be of special interest to those who are studying the early history of our country. While it can hardly be called historical in the broadest sense, it is founded on a tradition of the North Country that the young Dauphin of France escaped during the Reign of Terror and found a home in America. It is pretty conceit anyway that the royal blood of France, coming to nothing in Europe, became incorporated in the life of the New World.

The Citizen will prove to be a helpful influence for good in your family or individual life, if you permit it. Subscribe today and try it.

Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

PERT PARAGRAPHS.

Every girl feels in her secret heart that the world missed a treat when she decided not to go on the stage.

Some men go to war because it is more peaceful than staying at home.

The trouble about being sorry is that it doesn't seem to do the least bit of good.

A thing that we have regarded as not of much value rises swiftly in our estimation as soon as some one else hankers after it.



Summer would be a much pleasant season all round if it could at times restrain its enthusiasm.

The only good thing about a mean man is the fact that he will die some time.

When a girl meets her ideal she should be careful not to get too well acquainted with him.

When you look for trouble with blood in your eye, trouble is apt to take the hint and disappear.

Fishing would be more enjoyable if it were not such hard work to become acquainted with the fish.

A man trying to be funny is one of the sad sights of the earth.

Don't expect a girl who has never washed dishes to be overjoyed at the prospect of love in a cottage.

His Long Suit.

He didn't like to saw the wood; It made him sick, he said; At plait, hard work he wasn't good; At sight of it he fled. But when it came to telling how A hard job should be done Then he, with corrugated brow, Could outshine any one.

He couldn't bear to help his wife Amuse his children dear; When tumult and when care were rife, Then he'd get up and clear. It pleased him not to hear a child Complain about his food, So he'd get up and skip when wild And hungry was his brood.

It seemed to take his time and strength To figure out just how The nations of the earth at length Would keep the splendid prow Of each fair ship of sovereign state Well up abreast the storm. And at these problems he was great; Such things could he perform.

Hot air just seemed to spout from him As gas does from a jet; He'd talk until the stars were dim And sun and moon had set. At labor he was nothing worth— In fact, a failure flat; At talking he could beat the earth; He was a peech at that.

Has Practice.

"Woman could fill any position that man can if she just had the confidence."

"Still some of the heavier work, like blacksmithing, might be too much for her."

"I don't know. Many of the women I have known were expert with their hammers."

Made a Difference.

They journeyed through a tunnel; 'Twas dark as dark could be. He didn't try to kiss the girl. For they were married. See?

Not Reversible.

"A man should never go where he cannot take his wife."

"Then a woman should never go where she cannot take her husband."

"Quite right."

"But would you bar her from bargain counters? She couldn't drag him there."

Maud's Plan.

Maud Muller on a summer's day Raked the meadow, sweet with hay. And as she raked she said: "Oh, fudge! I wish that I could catch a judge. For then I'd throw the rake away And tell the judge to buy his hay." But no judge came to boost the plan, And so she wed the hired man.

Lucky Accident.

"A chance remark brought her a fortune."

"What were the magical words?"

"Oh, she just happened to say 'Yes' when the young millionaire asked her to marry him."

The Surest Way.

"I wish I knew how to get a living without working."

"Ever try inheriting money?"

Playing Safe.

Speak gently; it is better far. For when the words are said You will not have so good a chance To draw a busted head.

Gives Him a Pain.

"Is it so bad for a boy's health to smoke cigarettes?"

"It is if his mother catches him at it."

Berea Teachers' Club

ADDRESS ALL LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION TO C. D. LEWIS, BEREA, KY.

An Everyday Secret

The country teacher has no lack of material to use in studying nature.

Ask your pupils some afternoon to each bring a bean pod or two with him to school in the morning. Any kind of a bean pod will do, just so the beans are almost fully grown, but the pod not dry. At some time during the day have all books put up and tell the children that you will help them find out something new about beans, for though they eat beans so often they probably have never seen what you will show them.

Give out the pods, one to each child if you have enough, and then ask them to take a pin or knife and split it open carefully up the back. You should always have a paper of pins on the desk anyway, so you can supply those who need them.

Then have each pod carefully spread open so that the row of beans can be seen, and note how each one is fastened to the string along the back of the pod and surrounded closely by a soft skin which separates it from the outside of the pod. Also tell them that the string is a bundle of very small tubes so small that the point of the finest needle would not enter them, which run down the stem of the plant and into the root from which they bring the food upon which the bean grows. Now you are ready to take out one of the beans and examine it. With the knife or pin slit the skin of the bean, beginning with the scar where it broke from the pod, and running around the edge.

Remove this carefully and you find the two light green halves of the bean with a little white point projecting from between them near one end.

Next, very carefully separate the two halves and see what lies between them. A perfect little bean plant! There you can see the round fat stem, with what is to grow into the root pushing out from between the halves on one end, and on the other two perfect little bean leaves folded together ready for the long winter's sleep. If you have a pocket magnifying glass you can see the veins of the leaf just as they will be in the big leaf next summer.

This is the great secret. The bean plant never dies. For hundreds of years, thousands of years, yes, from the time when the first bean grew the same life has been going on and on, and it will go on so long as there are beans in the world. This fall the bean stalk dies, but in each bean there is a little plant composed of root, stem and leaves which does not die but only rests, ready to grow when air, warmth and moisture are given it next spring.

There, have we not found one of nature's secrets which we had never guessed before though it was so easy to find out?

Every child should be better, more thoughtful, more anxious to learn of other wonders from these few minutes spent in finding out this little everyday secret of nature.

Teachers' Club News.

A paragraph got misplaced in the last issue. The statement—"The writer will be glad to help you make a selection if you will mention the matter to him when you send in your next letter"—referred to buying books and should have followed the statement in regard to that matter.

News does not come in fast enough. Every club member should try to write a little news each month. At least let every one write some time during the fall. If this column is interesting you must help make it so.

The Club Pins will be sent out as soon as possible. There has been a delay in getting them.

Miss Lula Woodward is teaching at Whitman, Whitley County. She is enjoying the work and will be in Berea next winter.

Mr. Leslie Hogg, of Leslie County, became a member of the Club last week. He was a student here last year. Let more of the students of former years renew their interest in Berea by doing as he did.

Mother's Ear

A WORD IN MOTHER'S EAR! WHEN NURSING AN INFANT, AND IN THE MONTHS THAT COME BEFORE THAT TIME.

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How to Make Turkish Coffee.

Many people enjoy coffee as it is made by the Turks. The process is simple, though it requires special appliances—a hand mill to grind the coffee to a powder and a boiler of copper, says the New York Journal. Of any good quality pure coffee freshly roasted and passed through the hand mill take a heaped teaspoonful for each cup and add the same quantity of castor sugar. Put together into the boiler with cold water and heat over a clear fire or spirit lamp till the mixture boils, being careful to avoid boiling over. When the froth rises remove from the source of heat, tap the boiler gently till the froth settles and boil up again. Repeat and after the third rising of the froth pour briskly into the cup or cups.

How to Make Clam Bouillon.

In making a clam bouillon chop fine two cupfuls of clams and put in the saucepan with half a cupful of hot water. Scald and skim and then add one and a half cupfuls of hot water, a tablespoonful of chopped celery, a little white pepper and a tablespoonful of minced parsley. Bring to a boil. Strain and serve in cups with whipped cream on top.

How to Drive Away House Flies.

To drive away the common house fly prepare the following mixture: One-half tablespoonful of black pepper, one teaspoonful of brown sugar, one teaspoonful of cream. Place the mixture on a plate and set it in the room where the flies are buzzing, and they will soon disappear.

How to Make Camphorated Oil.

Here is a doctor's rule for making camphorated oil: Break rock camphor into small pieces, put it into a bottle and fill with olive oil. Half of three-penny worth of rock camphor will be enough for a four ounce bottle of oil. Shake well.

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